

POLITICAL GOSSIP
FROM WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—Senator James E. Watson of Indiana is due for many more uncomfortable days in the Senate if present indications are to be regarded as fair forecast of future developments. Watson having made himself one of the leaders of the Old Guard and having impressed upon the Senate the fact that he is the spokesman for Senator Penrose of Pennsylvania, has added to the opposition to him created by his speech attacking the Federal Trade Commission.

It is now confirmed that Watson

was looked upon by the Old Guard as a potential candidate for the presidency. For weeks it was debated whether Watson should make the start and during that time Senator Harding of Ohio withheld any announcement of his intention to enter the race. Harding was prepared to support Watson if Watson entered the race and Watson, of course, is expected to support Harding. The Old Guard, confronted by the growing opposition of the Progressives, was intent upon presenting a united front.

This bit of information has been put in the Progressive files and they are prepared to present it to the

Old Guard leaders either on the Senate floor or in the Republican National convention. Along with it, the progressives also are storing a mass of information concerning Senator Harding. They would rather have Harding withdraw now, they say, because if Harding by any chance should be nominated they insist the result will be the creation of another Bull Moose party.

The Old Guard leaders are endeavoring to create the impression that the race is between Harding and Governor Lowden of Illinois. Only within the last few days Senator Smoot of Utah has informed his friends that it was his opinion the

contest was between these two men and that there was little chance of any other being nominated. Lowden is not acceptable to the Progressives because he happened to be one of the group which at Chicago in 1912 caused the break in the Republican party and the formation of a Progressive party with Colonel Theodore Roosevelt as the nominee for the presidency. Of course, a similar charge is to be made against Harding for the Progressives now say no man wrote and spoke more bitter things about Roosevelt than did Harding.

Lowden has other charges against him. He is being supported by one

of the greatest financial organizations in this country and as one of the Old Guard put it recently in the cloak room of the Senator, he will have a difficult task riding into the presidency just because of this support.

"No man ever rode into the presidency in a Pullman—you've got to ride in a day coach," was the terse comment of the Old Guard leader and though it caused immediate laughter, it also caused serious consideration of the Lowden boom, because Lowden is known as the child of the Pullman car millions.

Senator Watson's open support of this Old Guard element is fast caus-

ing him to be suspected and avoided by the Progressives in the Senate. When the open rupture comes, and it may come any day after the Senate convenes, Watson is sure to be pointed out as a target for the Progressive attacks, and if he is, he will have many uneasy moments to add to those of the present.

At the Christian parsonage, Saturday, December 27, Levi Marshall united in marriage Mr. Estel Bee Johnson of Camp Pike, Arkansas and Miss Mary Stultz of Indianapolis. The groom is the son of Mrs. Ida B. Johnson of this city. He will return temporarily to Camp Pike.



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